

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22, 34-80, and 86-90 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 125-126.

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)
15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient, comprising:
a mask shell having a portion adapted to receive a supply of pressurized breathable gas and a user side;
a gusset portion having a first side attached to the user side of the shell and having a second side;
a cushion having a first portion constructed and arranged to attach to the second side of the gusset portion and a second portion constructed and arranged to contact a user's face in use and provide a seal between the mask and the user's face; and
a headgear constructed and arranged to attach the mask shell to the user;
wherein, the gusset portion is constructed and arranged such that it can expand and contract within a range of displacement to alter a distance between the mask shell and the cushion, the gusset portion defining a gusset area exposed to the supply of pressurized breathable gas in use such that the supply of pressurized breathable gas acting on the gusset area provides a component of a contact force F_c of the cushion on the user's face, the force F_c being maintained in approximately constant proportion to the supply of pressurized breathable gas and a total force of the mask on the face F_m being maintained within a range of about 35 - 108 grams per gf/cm^2 pressure of the supply of pressurized breathable gas over an operating pressure range of the mask.

24. (original) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient as in claim 23, wherein the force F_m is maintained within a range of about 40 – 88 grams per gf/cm^2 pressure of the supply of pressurized breathable gas.

25. (original) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient as in claim 24, wherein the force F_m is maintained within a range of about 50 – 88 grams per gf/cm^2 pressure of the supply of pressurized breathable gas.

26. (original) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient as in claim 25, wherein the operating pressure range is about 4-25 gf/cm^2 .

27. (original) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient as in claim 26, wherein the expansion and contraction of the gusset portion permits a seal to be maintained between the cushion and the user's face within a range of about plus and minus 8 degrees angular displacement of the mask shell with respect to the user's face.

28. (original) A breathable gas mask arrangement as in claim 23, wherein the gusset portion includes a single gusset having a flexible sidewall with a generally triangular cross-section when not exposed to the supply of pressurized breathable gas that balloons to a generally rounded cross-section when exposed to the supply of pressurized breathable gas.

29. (original) A breathable gas mask arrangement as in claim 23, wherein the gusset portion includes a sidewall having a thickened cross-section at a base of the sidewall.

30. (original) A breathable gas mask arrangement as in claim 29, wherein the thickened portion has a generally uniform thickness.

31. (original) A breathable gas mask arrangement as in claim 29, wherein the gusset portion includes a sidewall having a cross-sectional thickness tapering from a thickened base portion to a thinner portion.

32. (original) A breathable gas mask arrangement as in claim 23, and further including a generally rigid backstop attached to the mask shell for contacting a first sidewall portion of the gusset portion to limit movement of the first sidewall portion.

33. (original) A breathable gas mask arrangement as in claim 32, wherein the generally rigid backstop extends around substantially an entire periphery of the gusset portion.

34. (cancelled)

35. (cancelled)

36. (cancelled)

37. (cancelled)

38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)

41. (cancelled)

42. (cancelled)

43. (cancelled)

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (cancelled)

47. (cancelled)

48. (cancelled)

49. (cancelled)

50. (cancelled)

51. (cancelled)

52. (cancelled)

53. (cancelled)

54. (cancelled)

55. (cancelled)

56. (cancelled)

57. (cancelled)

58. (cancelled)

59. (cancelled)

60. (cancelled)

61. (cancelled)

62. (cancelled)

63. (cancelled)

64. (cancelled)

65. (cancelled)

66. (cancelled)

67. (cancelled)

68. (cancelled)

69. (cancelled)

70. (cancelled)

71. (cancelled)

72. (cancelled)

73. (cancelled)

74. (cancelled)

75. (cancelled)

77. (cancelled)

78. (cancelled)

80. (cancelled)

81. (cancelled)

82. (cancelled)

83. (cancelled)

84. (cancelled)

85. (cancelled)

86. (cancelled)

87. (cancelled)

88. (cancelled)

89. (cancelled)

90. (cancelled)

91. (cancelled)

92. (cancelled)

93. (cancelled)

94. (cancelled)

95. (cancelled)

96. (cancelled)

97. (cancelled)

98. (cancelled)

99. (cancelled)

100. (cancelled)

101. (cancelled)

102. (cancelled)

103. (cancelled)

104. (cancelled)

105. (cancelled)

106. (cancelled)

107. (cancelled)

108. (cancelled)

109. (cancelled)

110. (cancelled)

111. (cancelled)

112. (cancelled)

113. (cancelled)

114. (cancelled)

115. (cancelled)

116. (cancelled)

117. (cancelled)

118. (cancelled)

119. (cancelled)

120. (cancelled)

121. (cancelled)

122. (cancelled)

123. (cancelled)

124. (cancelled)

125. (new) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient as in claim 23, wherein the mask is a nasal mask.

126. (new) A mask for delivering breathable gas to a patient as in claim 23, wherein the mask is a CPAP mask.